

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MARINE LIFE PROTECTION ACT**

WHEREAS, the health of the Pacific Ocean is directly tied to the City of San Diego's economy, public health, and environment; and

WHEREAS, many fish off the California coast are in such decline that some species will take 50-100 years to recover to healthy sustainable levels, and more than 70% of kelp forests along the Southern California coast have vanished in the last 50 years; and

WHEREAS, two recent national reports issued by the *Pew Oceans Commission* and the *U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy* similarly concluded that our ocean ecosystems are in serious decline and current management of ocean resources is inadequate; both recommended strengthening protection of ocean ecosystems and restoring our marine natural heritage for the benefit of current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, the California Legislature adopted the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) in 1999 in order to protect and conserve California's ocean resources for the benefit of all; and

WHEREAS, the MLPA calls for the creation of a scientifically based, coherent network of marine protected areas, including marine reserves, parks, and conservation areas; and

WHEREAS, there is strong evidence that marine reserves worldwide provide greater benefits to habitat and wildlife populations, and improve the structure, function and integrity of marine ecosystems, resulting in significantly higher densities of marine life within their boundaries than only partially protected sites; and

WHEREAS, successful implementation of the MLPA will help support our ocean's environment that is of the utmost importance to San Diegans' way of life and economic future.

WHEREAS, the La Jolla marine ecosystem is unmatched for beauty, clarity, water quality and biologic diversity, with a thriving local onshore economy historically focused on matchless coastal recreation and tourism.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF SAN DIEGO DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City Council of San Diego, California supports the goals and implementation of the MLPA to establish the strongest possible, scientifically based network of marine protected areas (MPAs) in California waters designed to protect the State's marine life, habitat, and ocean ecosystems.

Section 2. The City Council of San Diego, California endorses the planning and process for the MLPA in Southern California and will support creative implementation processes that include input from the science community and all interested and involved stakeholders.

Section 3. The City Council of San Diego, California endorses the use of MPAs in order to accommodate multiple objectives and stakeholder uses, strongly urging the use of fully protected marine reserves to the greatest extent practicable to ensure the health of California's marine resources for future San Diegans.

Section 4. The City Council of San Diego, California endorses the placement of a fully protected marine reserve in La Jolla.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk of the City of San Diego is authorized to communicate the City's position to the Governor of California, the California Department of Fish and Game, the California Fish and Game Commission, and other Southern California cities participating in this historic endeavor.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of San Diego, California on this ____ day of ____, 2009.
